Tax Cuts Are Key Element in Reagan Program

Analysis-from page 1

Because it is widely recognized that a primary reason for our declining productivity is aging industrial plants and machinery, the relief sought for business is least contested.

Other aspects of the plan are controversial. Here is an analysis of the major elements of the Reagan economic program:

INDIVIDUAL TAX CUTS

The president is recommending reductions of 10 percent in individual incometax rates over each of the next three yearsthe 10-10-10 proposal.

Those cuts would directly benefit small businesses because 90 percent of them file income-tax returns as individuals, not corporations. Because two-thirds of all new jobs in the private sector are created by firms with fewer than 20 employees, tax relief for small business would stimulate employment.

While critics charge that individual tax cuts will mean higher budget deficits, fuel inflation and fall unfairly on the poor, recent history has proved otherwise.

Previous tax reductions have been followed by booming business, creation of more jobs, increased investment by the wealthy in productive enterprises, with government receiving more tax revenues from the resurging economy than it had before the

tax relief.
The claim that the proposed cuts would discriminate against the poor fails to recognize that lower-income people historically have benefited most from supplyoriented tax relief because they have the most to gain from the newly created job

And the 10-10-10 approach would reduce all rates by the same percentage, with no discrimination against any taxpayers.

It is also important to remember that wage-earners in the upper half of the income distribution pay 93 percent of all taxes.

The claim that tax cuts would be inflationary is based on the erroneous assumption that a tax cut creates more money. It does not. It simply transfers money from the government to the people, where it can be put to more productive use. Once tax rates are lowered, people will have incentive to create more goods and services, lowering inflation.

TAX RELIEF FOR BUSINESS

The relief sought for business is least contested, because it is widely recognized that a primary reason for declining productivity is aging industrial plants and machinery. The president has proposed an Accelerated Cost Recovery System that would enable business to recover capital costs more quickly, thereby encouraging greater investment in new and modernized

Tax Panel To Consider Bill on Foreign Income

Legislative proposals for modifying tax treatment of foreign-earned income will be heard by the Taxation and Debt Management Subcommittee later this week.

Noting that just over a year ago the panel received testimony favoring the issue, panel chairman Bob Packwood suggested that it would be helpful to receive testimony addressing the impact of current law on the ability of United States nationals to compete in overseas markets with foreign nationals. Also, Packwood will investigate the impact of current law on total U.S. exports and on U.S. employment generated by exports.

The proposals to be discussed include an annual exclusion for foreign-earned income of \$50,000 plus one-half of the next \$50,000, tax exemption of all foreign-earned income of certain individuals; and an 80 ercent across the board exemption of all foreign-earned income.

plants and machines, boosting American productivity, output and competitiveness in world markets.

The proposed relief would be of tremendous benefit to small business. At present, 99.6 percent of small firms do not write off their assets under the system which contains more than 100 categories and imposes many formal accounting and recordkeeping requirements.

When all business can recover investments in capital assets at the same rate and under the same system, small business will be able to compete on a fairer basis.

SPENDING REDUCTIONS

Federal revenues are equal to 23 percent of the gross national product, compared with 16 percent in the early 1960s. Government demands on scarce capital, labor and resources leaves an insufficient amount for the private sector. Private initiative, job creation and productivity are hurt.

Reducing federal competition with citizens and businesses for scarce resources is a major reason for reducing government spending.

President Reagan is seeking to slow the rate of growth of public spending, not bring about actual reductions from current levels. While he is asking a cut of \$49 billion in the fiscal 1982 budget proposed by for-mer President Carter, the spending level still would go up \$41 billion over this year. Even with the proposed cuts, the deficit during the next three years is expected to be \$122 billion.

At the same time, the president has gone

to great lengths to preserve the safety net" to assure no lessening of aid to the truly needy. He has targeted for reduction only those programs that have become inflated far beyond their original goals and provide subsidies to millions of people who don't really need them.

All cuts in social programs have been plotted carefully to "trim the fat" without depriving the truly needy of assistance.

In addition to lessening inflation and restoring rapid economic growth, the administration's budget will force federal agencies to trim out the fat from their budgets and take strong action against waste, fraud and mismanagement. Likewise many programs and bureaus, which have outlived their usefulness or failed in their mission, will be abolished.



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